CLOSE UP

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PEOPLE & PLACES

New Year Message from Scott

I would like to wish everyone a safe and Happy New Year! Another year has passed, and we thank you all for participating in MoNEP.

2012 was a busy year for MoNEP. We had another strong seminar with Rob Sheppard as our presenter. Our photo exhibit, which started out at Powder Valley, was also displayed at MDC's Discovery Center in Kansas City and Runge Conservation Nature Center in Jefferson City. We have additional requests for shows in 2013.

The income from our seminar helps MoNEP support selected organizations that fit our mission. We continue to support a University of Missouri-St. Louis scholarship and the Shaw Nature Reserve Youth Photo Contest, as well as other mission related efforts.

The second half of the year was a little tricky with the changes in venues required by budget cuts at Powder Valley Nature Center. 2013 will also require adjustments in locations. Although we are working to minimize the changes month to month, please keep an eye on the newsletter for monthly meeting dates and locations. We are lining up a strong set of speakers that you will not want to miss.

Although things run smoothly most of the time, we do have occasional mishaps. We stay on track because of the dedication, planning, time and energy of the Board, support staff and volunteers. They are outstanding and do whatever it takes to make all of this happen. I cannot thank them enough, and I hope you will take a moment to thank them as well.

Scott's Message continued

If you haven't already renewed your membership for 2013, we hope you will attend the next meeting and do so. We are proud of the fact that our dues are the same as when MoNEP began over 18 years ago. All the best in 2013!

– Scott Avetta, MoNEP President

MoNEP 2013 Exhibits

MoNEP has been invited to show our work in two back-to-back exhibits next summer and fall.

The first exhibit will be at the **Runge Conservation Nature Center in Jefferson City in July and August**. We will be showing members' work related to all things natural found in Missouri.

Then, **Shaw Nature Reserve** has invited us to submit an exhibit for the Bascom House in **September and October**. We will be showing work related to the Missouri Botanical Garden's 2013 theme, which is ***Food***. This theme can be interpreted many ways. We suggest you think about who eats what, or who eats whom in nature in Missouri. Subjects can include: insects and other animals feeding on plants, animals hunting prey or grazing, birds feeding their young; spider webs for capturing prey; butterflies, bees and hummingbirds feeding on flower nectar; squirrels storing nuts; edible native fruits trees and shrubs.

It would be great if some of the work in the first show could be used for the second exhibit, so please keep this in the back of your mind while you are out photographing in the coming months. More information, including submission details and dates will be covered in future newsletters.

New Member

A warm MoNEP welcome to our newest member, **Emil Davidzuk**.

2012 Holiday Show

The 2012 MoNEP Holiday Show and party was another great success. Thank you to all who made it such an enjoyable evening. As we've done for many years now, we would once again like to acknowledge and thank **Margy and Dan Terpstra** for all their work coordinating logistics and volunteers and purchasing, delivering and arranging for the setup of food and drinks for our gathering. They do a truly great job organizing the event. Thanks also to the many volunteers who helped Margy and Dan with setup and cleanup or who brought food to share. The Holiday Party and Show are significant undertakings, and we are so fortunate to have so many people who are willing to give their time and energy to make it a great celebration of the year.

The Holiday Show that **Jerry Miller and Pat Burgess** created was magnificent, as we have come to expect. They spent hours sorting through members' images, arranging the presentation and setting it to wonderful music. Kudos to them for a brilliant job! Our thanks as well to the many members who submitted images this year: **Ken Biddle, Vearl Brown, Pat Burgess, Jim Campbell, Kathy and Mark Cherry, Judy Colombini, Bill Duncan, Scott Evers, Loena and Ron Gerdes, Jane Griesehauer, Joe Klipsch, Michelle Jones, Butch Lama, Leandra Lewis, Christy Lonero, Beverley, Jerry, Jeremy and Sandra Miller, Mark McAmish, Monica McAmish-Bahr, Rich Merz, Linda Moder, Don Morice, Larry Morrison, Norma Mull, Marcy Pivin, Sarah Radke, Jim Rhodes, Dick Roman, Don Sheahan, Richard Spener, Jim Stroup, Dan and Margy Terpstra, Larry Terrell, Dug Threewit, Rick Walters, John Watson, and Sammylane Wirth.** Without your images there would be no holiday show!

We were fortunate to have good weather and to be in another great location at the Ethical Society. There was plenty of fine food, good company and fantastic nature photography!

Request from Scott

For those of you who try to speak with me on meeting nights, I am sorry if I keep things short. Meeting nights are very busy and when members ask me a question or give me information I find it difficult to remember all the information accurately. It would help me, and ultimately you, if you would email me or call me sometime after the meeting with the questions or information so I can be sure to get back to you or pass the information along. Many thanks! -Scott

Thanks to Lori Purk!

The newsletter editor would like to thank **Lori Purk** for taking the reigns and putting out the November-December issue of Close-Up. Lori was the newsletter editor for nine years. I appreciate her coming out of retirement and dusting off her editorial skills so I could enjoy a wonderful vacation. Many thanks, Lori, for all your hard work and your continued dedication to MoNEP. – Barb

Webmaster Address Change

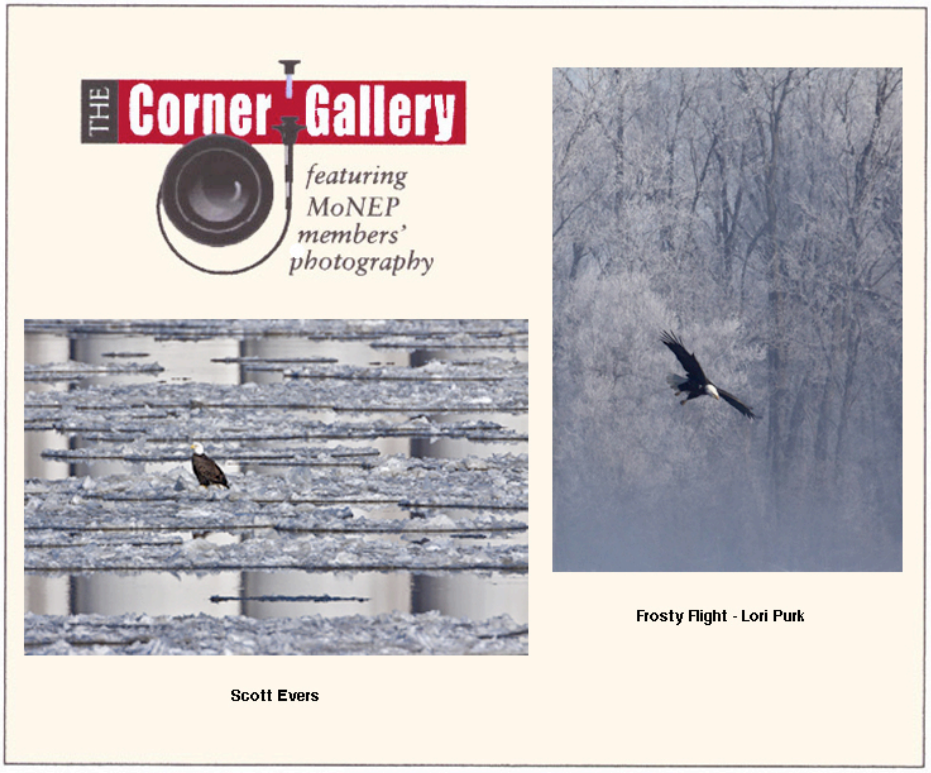
Should you need to contact the **Pat Burgess**, the MoNEP webmaster, by email, please note that he has a new email address: **wpb691@gmail.com**.

Jennifer Wu Workshops

Professional nature photographer, **Jennifer Wu**, is a past seminar presenter for the St. Louis Camera Club and a member of the elite *Canon Explorers of Light*. She will be leading several workshops in 2013. In addition to tours to Namibia, Greenland and Iceland, she will be leading two tours with Canon to photograph brown bears in Alaska in July. Visit **www.jenniferwu.com/workshops** for details on all her trips.

Attack of the Black Vultures

For those members planning to visit the Everglades, be warned that migrating black vultures have taken to attacking park visitors' cars. They have apparently developed a habit of ripping off windshield wipers and other rubber or vinyl parts of automobiles. This behavior is exhibited by at least one other bird species, the kea, an alpine parrot in New Zealand. However, it seems a much less likely behavior for a vulture. The birds do not appear to eat the rubber. They just rip it off and drop it. Park officials have tried many different techniques to discourage this behavior, but have had to resort to handing out tarps and bungee cords to cover visitors' vehicles, as other efforts have failed.



MEETINGS & programs

Meeting Dates, Times and Locations

Tuesday, January 15th from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday, February 19th from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

NOTE: The January and February meetings will be held at the **Sunset Hills Community Center at 3915 S. Lindbergh Blvd, 63127.** The Community Center is located just south of the intersection of Lindbergh Boulevard and West Watson Road/Eddie & Park. Enter at the front of the building. The meeting rooms are located on the main level to the left of the entrance.

January Meeting – Jeff Hirsch

Our **January 15th** meeting presenter is **Jeff Hirsch**, a digital imaging specialist with 25 years experience in the field. Jeff will present ***After the Click - Digital Photo Workflow with Adobe Lightroom***.

The advances in digital photography over the last decade have made it easier than ever to capture hundreds, if not thousands, of photos every time we go out to shoot. The problem is that all of those images start to pile up on our computers in a hurry and we rapidly find ourselves with a mess on our hands as it gets harder and harder to keep them all organized. How do you find that one needle in all your photographic haystacks? *Lightroom* - that's how! The presentation will include an overview of some best practices for managing your entire photography workflow as well as some tips specific to nature shooters.

Jeff has maintained a lifelong passion for photography since he first learned to develop black and white film in his father's darkroom at age 7. It was during his high school years that Jeff was first exposed to the earliest personal computers. He was curious to learn more about these strange devices and how they might reproduce an image on screen. At the time, he did not make the connection between photography and what he was seeing on the computer. But before long, the two pursuits began to merge into one - that of digital imaging. As digital imaging technology progressed, so did Jeff's understanding and skill set. From the earliest digital cameras and scanners to today's mega-pixel DSLR systems and advanced printers, Jeff's knowledge has kept pace with the latest imaging technology. The same evolution was also happening with image editing and page layout software. From *Digital Darkroom* all the way up to *Photoshop*, *InDesign* and *Lightroom*, Jeff has continued to grow and learn new processes, techniques, efficiencies and skills.

These days, Jeff splits his time between graphic design, photography and Macintosh tech support. An expert in geek-to-English translation and an Adobe Certified Expert in *Lightroom*, he teaches *Photoshop* and *Lightroom* to individuals and groups. To see Jeff's own work and to learn more about his classes and tips for using *Photoshop* and *Lightroom*, visit **www.jeffhirsch.com**.

Greg Basco Book

Past MoNEP speaker, **Greg Basco**, has written an eBook with fellow photographer, **Glenn Bartley**. ***The Guide to Tropical Nature Photography*** is packed with over 450 pages of information and images on techniques for macro, bird and landscape photography. Although targeted towards working in the tropics, the guide will help you wherever you shoot. According to the book's web site, **www.theguidetotropicalnaturephotography.com**:

"Successful tropical nature photography is all about having a diverse photographic toolkit to ensure that you're ready to deal with the technical challenges of each shot, freeing your mind to work on the artistic side of your photography. We'll be taking you through the equipment you'll need, and we'll also teach you how to use that equipment in a variety of ways. And we'll give you tips on finding your subjects and "seeing" images in the field so that you can produce a beautiful and colorful tropical portfolio. What's more, the techniques you learn here will open up whole new worlds for your photography back home and on future travels. We believe strongly that if you can capture great images in the tropics, you'll be well-equipped to capture great images anywhere in the world.

Topics covered include the following:

- Exposure strategies for natural light.
- Auto-focus and other settings for shooting wildlife.
- Beginning and advanced flash techniques.
- Sharpness, exposure and depth of field concerns for tropical landscapes.
- Natural history tips to help you find great subjects.
- Gear recommendations and post-processing tips.

With over 400 pages of text, illustrative figures, example images and showcase photographs with shooting data, *The Guide to Tropical Nature Photography* is a bargain in the world of specialized photographic ebooks!" The book is available for purchase at $39.99.

Eagle Days

It is that time of year when large numbers of bald eagles have moved into both Missouri and Illinois for the winter. On January 3rd, 282 eagles were counted in Northwestern Missouri at Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge. Sixty of them were adults. **The Missouri Department of Conservation** will host **Eagle Days** in **Clarksville, Missouri** on **Saturday, January 26th from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** and **Sunday, January 27th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** There will not be an Eagle Days event at the Old Chain of Rocks Bridge this year due to budget cuts at MDC, but that is still a good spot for seeing these phenomenal birds. Visit the MDC website for more information: **http://mdc.mo.gov/events/eagledays**. Other prime spots for seeing eagles include Lock & Dam 24 in Clarksville, Missouri, Lock & Dam 25, East of Winfield and The Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary, on the Missouri side of the river near Alton, Illinois.

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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Missouri Nature and Environmental Photographers is to provide a forum for individuals interested in the field of nature photography and the environment, provide education, gather and disseminate information, and promote nature photography as an art form and medium of communication.

MoNEP meetings are held once a month at the Powder Valley Conservation Area Nature Center on 11715 Cragwold Road, near the intersection of I-44 and I-270 in southwestern St. Louis County. Monthly meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the 3rd Tuesday of each month, January through November. Meetings take place in the Nature Center auditorium. Specific dates are posted in the newsletter.

MoNEP is an officially registered service mark. Use of the logo without MoNEP board approval is prohibited.

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